DEMOCRATIC

RECD APR 12 1963

GERMAN REPORT

Vol. XII No. 3 | February 8th 1963 | Price: 15 Pf, 5c, 3d.

BONN & PARIS CONCLUDE WAR PACT

West Germany and France concluded a pact on January 22nd which practically swept away the restrictions on West German arms imposed when West Germany was taken into NATO in 1954.

The new pact was concluded personally by French President Charles De Gaulle and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer; the parliaments of the two states were given no chance to debate the far-reaching new agreements before they were signed.

Part of the pact consists of unobjectionable cultural objectives, such as a stepping-up of the study of the French language in West Germany and vice-versa, and the mutual recognition of diplomas and university degrees; but political observers regarded the paragraphs dealing with military affairs as the core of the agreement. These may be summarised as follows:

1. France and West Germany shall coordinate their strategy and tactics in the military field, and establish a joint Institute for Operational Research.

2. Personnel, particularly officers, and whole units shall be exchanged between the French Army and the West German Wehrmacht.

3. In the field of arms, the two governments shall draft joint armament projects, and undertake joint weapons research.

Observers pointed out that the final paragraph, if implemented, meant the final end of the restrictions on West German armaments originally laid down in the Paris Agreement of October 1956 (also known as the "Revised Brussels Treaty"). At that time Chancellor Adenauer took a specific pledge, incorporated in the Paris Agreement: "The Federal Republic undertakes not to manufacture in its territory atomic weapons, chemical weapons, biological weapons, long-distance and guided missiles... warships of more than 3000 tons... bomber aircraft for strategic purposes" (British White Paper Cmd. 9304).

This agreement was at that time presented to the western world as a hard pledge that West Germany would never be allowed to develop such weapons. Since then NATO has given West Germany permission to manufacture missiles, and exceed the warship limit: the new agreement with France means that West Germany has now abrogated the right to develop all the other categories of banned weapons as long as it does this on French territory.

It has been an open secret for some years that West German specialists helped France to develop its "independent nuclear capacity"; under the new pact cooperation in the nuclear and rocket field can go ahead publicly.

In a strongly-worded declaration published on February 1st, the Government of the German Democratic Republic condemned the De Gaulle-Adenauer pact. "By means of this pact the ruling circles in Bonn and Paris hope to wreck the policy of peaceful coexistence, to attain hegemony over western Europe and over the peoples of Africa who have been liberated from the colonial yoke, and to pursue an aggressive policy against the socialist states", the GDR declaration stated.

"The Paris Pact reinforces the existing close cooperation between the most aggressive forces in both countries in the field of atomic armament, and greatly increases the danger that the Hitlerite generals and revanchists in West Germany will get their hands on nuclear weapons. With the help of this pact the West German and French imperialists wish to dominate the other states of western Europe.

"The pact calls for 'close coordination of the development aid' of both countries, thus representing a new stage in the neocolonial plans of the Bonn-Paris-Madrid axis in northern and western Africa.

"The pact aims at the hegemony of the most reactionary forces of finance capital in western Europe, and plans to convert the peoples of Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Italy into satellites of this war axis. The breakdown of the negotiations for the integration of Britain in the Common Market

Hitler's U-Boat Men Take Over Again See page 22

shows that the phrases about 'European integration' are simply camouflage for the dictatorship plans of the West German and French militarists. The ultimatum demanding that Britain should subject itself unconditionally to the dictatorship of its West German and French competitors was aimed at forcing the governments of the USA and Britain to make 'concessions' which would give the West German generals full control of nuclear weapons.

"The fact that West Berlin is included in the terms of the Bonn-Paris Pact shows that this pact is aimed against any relaxation of tension. West Berlin does not form a part of West Germany, and the West German Government has no sort of rights regarding West Berlin."

The GDR government declaration stated that the Bonn-Paris Pact was a clear breach of Article 1 of the United Nations Charter, and the decisions of the war-time Anti-Hitler Coalition. It stressed that the German Democratic Republic wished to live in a spirit of understanding with France and the other nations of Europe on the basis of peace, democracy and anti-militarism.

W. Germany Prepares for Martial Law

Special Legislation to Throttle Opposition

The West German Parliament began on January 24th to debate a series of bills which, if passed into law, would grant the government dictatorial powers.

Under the special agreement signed with the western allies at the time of the establishment of the West German Federal Republic, special powers in time of emergency were reserved to Britain, France, and the US. The intention of the new bills is to make it possible for the Adenauer Government to assume these special powers, both in case of an "external threat" and in case of "internal threats" such as major strikes.

All three parties in the West German Parliament have agreed in principle on the substance of the bills, though some Social Democratic speakers voiced mild criticism of clauses making it possible for the government to ban strikes and other normal trade union activities. The West German trade unions voted against the emergency laws at their congress in October 1962.

The laws under debate may be summarised as follows:

1. The Emergency Constitutional Law, superseding the special rights reserved to the western allies, and providing the basis for the other legislation.

2. The Air Raid Protection Law, making it obligatory to provide rooms protected against nuclear radiation in all new buildings.

3. The Self Defence Law, authorising compulsory civil defence training, and the establishment of emergency stores of foodstuffs, etc.

4. The Residence Regulations Law, permitting the compulsory evacuation of certain areas, and banning unauthorised movement.

5. The Civil Defence Law, permitting the conscription of all men and women for civil defence in case of emergency.

6. A special law granting combatant status to the Federal Frontier Guard, which normally has only police status.

7. A law permitting the introduction of a rationing system.

8. The Law for the Direction of the Economy, granting the government dictatorial powers with regard to industry, man-power, etc.

9. The Transport Direction Law, permitting the government to seize all private cars and direct transport.

Introducing the bills in parliament, Hermann Hoecherl, Minister of the Interior, claimed that the very existence of the German Democratic Republic made it doubly necessary to rush through such legislation. It might be necessary to declare an emergency "even when it is not possible, or not yet possible, to prove clearly that there has been outside interference with the Federal Republic", he stated.

After the first reading, the bills were sent to committee. The present schedule calls for the bills to become law before the West German Parliament goes into summer recess.

Nazi Judge on the Spot

A West German doctor who is running a one-man campaign against nazi judges back on the bench again in West German courts has turned his fire on another prominent judge, after getting two other jurists suspended.

At the end of January, Doctor Hertrich, a prominent psychoanalyst in Würzburg, filed charges of war crimes against Judge Georg Eisert, today working as director of the Würzburg Provincial Court. He submitted documents showing that during the nazi period Judge Eisert was Deputy Public Prosecutor in the central nazi "People's Court", and that in this capacity he superintended the execution of dozens of anti-nazis from Belgium, Holland and France.

The accused judge issued a statement saying that he had no intention of resigning. "It is true that I worked in the People's Court", he stated, "but I had nothing to do with high treason cases. I only worked on ordinary treason cases."

In the past few months, Dr Hertrich's one-man campaign against nazi war criminals has led to the suspension of two leading Würzburg jurists, Professor Schiedermair, President of Würzburg Administrative Court, and Dr Karl Kolb, Senior State Prosecutor of Würzburg.

Pension for Synagogue Burner

The town council of Ansbach in West Germany, meeting in secret session in December 1962, decided to award a pension of 1,000 marks monthly (about £90) to Richard Haenel, who held the post of mayor in the town throughout the nazi period. After the war Haenel was sentenced to a prison term for personally burning the Thorah roll in the Ansbach Synagogue during nazi pogroms in November 1938.

The pension award to the nazi mayor finally came to light, and the provincial authorities, worried about West Germany's reputation abroad, ordered the town council to reverse its decision, which it unwillingly did in January.

GDR Economic Perspectives

(The Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party, held in East Berlin in January, dealt at length with nearly all aspects of economic, political and cultural life in the GDR. In our last issue we reported on the main speeches on international and inner-German problems. Below we present a summary of some of the main decisions on economic growth.)

Big increases in all branches of industrial production in the next seven years were foreshadowed in the keynote speeches and resolutions at the 6th Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party. Definite plan targets for the next Seven Year Plan, which will run from 1964 to 1970, have not yet been worked out in detail, but the outline plan for this period, presented to the Congress, foresees that industrial production will rise by 60%, earnings by 35% and labour productivity by 65%. The relatively gradual increase in earnings is explained by the fact that capital investment will have to be greatly increased in order to modernise and rationalise plant to the highest degree, to bring the GDR up to the highest world standards. The annual rate of capital investment, fixed at 16 thousand million marks for 1963, will rise to 28 thousand million marks by 1970.

A long and detailed resolution on economic perspectives, unanimously approved by the Congress, will provide the blueprint for the Government, the State Planning Commission and the Economic Council in working out the details of developments in the Seven Year Plan Period. This resolution defined the tasks in the coming period as follows:

1. Priority development of the main branches of the economy, such as the chemical industry, power, machine tools and electronics.

2. A speedy increase in productivity. (Authoritative speakers, including First Secretary Walter Ulbricht, shocked the Congress with the information that productivity today in the GDR is about 25% below the average in West Germany.)

3. The final overcoming of the disproportions in the economy, partly inherited from capitalism, and sharpened by the splitting of Germany and sabotage by West German sources.

4. Concentration of investment in the main branches of the economy.

5. A further planned development of international socialist division of labour and specialisation through the Council for Economic Mutual Aid (COMECON).

The resolution laid great stress both on an improvement of central planning methods, and on growing reliance upon the initiative and suggestions of the workers in the factories. "It is necessary to link most closely the factor of material interest and the factor of moral ideals," the resolution stated. "New standards must be used to measure the value of work and the output of the factories; it is no longer sufficient to measure production success simply in terms of gross output. Output must be assessed according to its economic use, costs, and profits, and also its quality, variety and quantity.

Some of the main problems of detail to be tackled in the forthcoming Seven Year Plan period were defined as follows:

1. Opening up of new power sources (mainly soft-coal power plants sited right in the coal fields).

2. Development of petrol-chemistry for the production of plastics and synthetic fibres (based largely on the oil-pipeline from the Soviet Union, scheduled for completion next year.

3. Development of high quality electrical and electronic equipment, and the further introduction of mechanisation and automation.

Presenting the Politburo

Biographical Notes on Socialist Unity Party Leaders

At the Congress of the Socialist Unity Party, held in East Berlin from January 15th to 21st, the delegates from all over the GDR elected a new Central Committee. The new Central Committee, meeting immediately after the Congress ended, re-elected Walter Ulbricht as First Secretary of the Party, and elected a new Politburo, or executive committee. Here are short biographies of all the members and candidate (alternate) members of the Politburo:

Full Members

Friedrich Ebert, 68

Printer by trade, since 1948 Lord Mayor of East Berlin. Joined the Social Democratic Party in 1913. Worked 1919-1933 on Social Democratic newspapers, and from 1928 as member of Reichstag. Concentration camp under nazis. (Ebert is the son of the first President of the Weimar Republic.)

Paul Fröhlich, 49

Miner by trade, since 1952 1st Secretary of the Leipzig District of the Socialist Unity Party. Joined the Communist Youth League in 1929, and the Communist Party in 1930. Underground anti-nazi work during the Hitler period.

Otto Grotewohl, 68

Printer by trade, since 1949 Prime Minister of the GDR. Joined the Social Democratic Party in 1912. Minister for Education, Brunswick Province 1923. Social Democratic Member of the Reichstag 1925—33. Repeatedly arrested by the nazis for underground activities.

Kurt Hager, 50

Journalist by trade. Professor for dialectical and historical materialism, Humboldt University, Berlin. Joined the Communist Party in 1930. After 1933 illegal work, concentration camp. Fought in the International Brigades in Spain.

Erich Honecker, 50

Building worker by trade. Joined Communist Youth League in 1926, Communist Party in 1929. Underground work under nazis, arrested in 1935 and imprisoned for 10 years on high treason charges. In 1946 helped to found Free German Youth movement, and was Secretary from 1946—1955.

Hermann Matern, 69

Leather worker by trade. Today Deputy Chairman of the People's Chamber. Joined Social Democratic Party in 1911, Communist Party in 1919. Arrested by nazis in 1933, escaped from prison 1934, and continued anti-nazi work from abroad.

Erich Mückenberger, 52

Engineering worker by trade. Today First Secretary of the Frank-

furt (Oder) District of the Socialist Unity Party. Joined Social Democratic Party in 1927. Sent to concentration camp by nazis.

Alfred Neumann, 53

Carpenter by trade. Chairman of the Economic Council of the GDR. Joined Communist Party in 1929. Fought in the International Brigades in Spain, later caught by the Gestapo and sentenced to 8 years.

Albert Norden, 58

Journalist by trade. Joined Communist Youth League in 1919, Communist Party in 1920. Editor of Communist newspapers in Weimar Republic. 1933 illegal underground work, later emigration to USA.

Bruno Leuschner, 52

Office worker by trade. Today member of the Executive Committee of the Council for Mutual Economic Aid (COMECON). Joined Communist Party in 1931. Underground work under nazis, six years in concentration camps.

Willi Stoph, 48

Building worker by trade. Deputy Prime Minister of the GDR. Joined Communist Youth League in 1928, and Communist Party in 1931. Underground anti-fascist work during nazi period.

Paul Verner, 51

Engineering worker by trade. Today First Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, Berlin district. Joined Communist Youth League in 1925, and Communist Party in 1929. Fought in the International Brigades in Spain.

Walter Ulbricht, 69

Cabinet maker by trade. Today Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party. Joined Social Democratic Party in 1912. During First World War member of Spartakus League. Founder member of the Communist Party in 1919. Member of Central Committee of Communist Party and later Socialist Unity Party since 1923. 1928—1933 member of Reichstag. Emigrated 1933, one of leaders of anti-nazi work from abroad.

Herbert Warnke, 60

Riveter by trade. Today Chairman of the Free German Trade Union Federation. Joined the Communist Party in 1923. Prominent union leader in Weimar Republic, and member of Reichstag 1932—1933. Underground anti-nazi work, internment in Sweden 1939—1943.

Candidate Members

Erich Apel, 45

Engineer by trade. Today Chairman of the State Planning Commission of GDR. Joined Socialist Unity Party in 1957.

Hermann Axen, 46

Worker by trade. Today editor of "Neues Deutschland", central newspaper of the Socialist Unity Party. Joined Communist Youth League in 1932. Jailed by nazis in 1934. Later emigration, re-arrest, and concentration camp from 1940—1945.

Karl-Heinz Bartsch, 39

Agricultural expert by trade. Today professor in agricultural faculty of Humboldt Universität, Berlin. Joined Socialist Unity Party in 1949.

Georg Ewald, 36

Farmer by trade. Today First Secretary of the Neubrandenburg district of the Socialist Unity Party. Joined the Socialist Unity Party in 1946.

Gerhard Gruneberg, 41

Building worker by trade. Today a GDR Cabinet Minister. Joined Socialist Unity Party in 1946.

Werner Jarowinsky, 35

Economist by trade. Today Deputy Minister of Trade. Joined the Communist Party in 1945.

Günter Mittag, 36

Railwayman by trade. Joined Socialist Unity Party in 1946.

Margarete Müller, 31

Tractor-driver by trade. Today Chairman of an agricultural production cooperative. Joined Socialist Unity Party in 1951. Won her diploma as agronomist at Leningrad University after five years' study.

Horst Sindermann, 47

Journalist by trade. Joined Communist Youth League in 1929. Spent entire nazi period in prison and concentration camp.

The Strange Case of Dr Hilger

By Charles R. Allen, Jr.

(Condensed from an article published in the January 1963 issue of "Jewish Currents", New York.)

For more than 30 years Dr Gustav Hilger was successively a loyal official in the Foreign Ministry of the Weimar Republic and Hitler's Third Reich. Under the nazis he was deputy to Foreign Minister Joachim Ribbentrop, who was hanged as a war criminal at Nuremberg.

He was Ribbentrop's authority on the liquidation of Jews, particularly in Italy in 1944.

For years, Hilger has been commuting between West Germany and Washington. Secretly, he has been working for the United States State Department (and most probably for the US intelligence organisation CIA) as a "consultant" and "expert" on Russian affairs since 1945.

Dr Gustav Hilger maintains a residence in Washington, D.C. Until recently, his telephone number in Washington was Sterling 3—3486. He now has an unlisted number.

Here are some details from his record. Until 1941, Hilger was Legation Counsellor in the German Embassy in Moscow. After this he played an executive role in the nazi killing machine. British author Gerald Reitlinger reports in "The House Built on Sand" (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1960) that Hilger was one of the two nazi Foreign Office "specialists on Russian collaboration" instrumental in establishing an army of renegade Russians led by the notorious deserter General Andrei Vlasov.

T.H. Tetens, author of "The New Germany and the Old Nazis" (Random House, New York, 1961), told me that Dr Hilger screened "all officers over the rank of colonel in Vlasov's army to make certain that they were politically reliable." If, at Hilger's discretion, a prospective high-ranking officer in the collaborators' army was not considered suitable, then Hilger personally ordered his liquidation.

Quite inevitably, Hilger's duties brought him into the area of the systematic murder of millions of Jews, Slavs, Gypsies and communists during the war on the Russian front. Dr Paul Hilberg states in "The Destruction of the European Jews" (Quadrangle Press, Chicago, 1961) that Hilger was the nazi Foreign Office's "informant on Einsatzgruppen (murder squad) operations."

According to Dr Hilberg's findings, Gustav Hilger played a similar role

in Italy. At the insistence of the nazis, the authorities in the fascist-controlled part of Italy built concentration camps for Jews early in 1944. The SS insisted that the Italian fascists be ordered to turn over all Jews in the concentration camps for shipment to the death camps. But the experts of section "Inland II" of the nazi Foreign Office — over which Hilger exercised a superior function, were more subtle than their crude colleagues in the SS. They thought it would cause less friction with the Italians if the transfers of the Jews to the newly-built concentration camps were made to appear to be the final destination instead of a preparatory measure in the evacuation to the eastern territory. A letter, signed by Gustav Hilger, has survived in the nazi files, stating that Ribbentrop "agrees to the proposal of Group Inland to delay for the moment the request for the removal of the Jews (from Italy) to the eastern territories."

The Italian Jews were assembled in the concentration camps, and then in spring 1944 the nazis sprang the trap. From April to October of that year, transports of Italian Jews reached Auschwitz. There are no accurate figures of those killed, but the number must be reckoned in thousands.

Dr Hilger clearly had a major role in this mass murder.

Hilger's name, incidentally, according to the research director of the US Society for the Prevention of World War III, appeared on the 1944 lists of the United Nations War Crimes Commission but, despite his capture by the Americans, he was never brought to trial for war crimes.

In fact, he showed up in the American Zone of occupied Germany and from there moved to Washington, where he lived and worked for many years without attracting any notice.

I talked with Dr Hilberg in an attempt to learn more about Hilger. While working on the War Documentation Project in Alexandria, Virginia, just outside Washington, Dr Hilberg states: "I came across Hilger's name on several occasions and saw him walk into the Federal Records Center. When asked the precise nature of Hilger's work in Washington, Dr Hilberg declined to discuss this, as it had been revealed to him under "classified conditions".

Mr Tetens told me that Hilger "most certainly was an employee" of not only the State Department "but also most probably of CIA."

Through my own sources, I secured the unlisted telephone number of Gustav Hilger in Washington. Recently, I telephoned that number and the following conversation took place:

Allen: Hilger?

Hilger: Ja.

Allen: Well, where have you been?

Hilger: What do you mean? Who is this speaking, please?

Allen: Look, I called you at State and couldn't get you!

Hilger: Well, the extension is 41 ... Just a minute! Who is this?

Allen: Dr Hilger, what precisely is your work with the United States State Department?

Hilger: I have nothing to say. Nothing to say.

With that, Dr Hilger hung up. The very next day, the unlisted number for Hilger was changed to yet another number — unlisted of course.

I later telephoned the Department of State on October 17th 1962 and spoke to Mr McGowan, described as "supervisor" of the Public Relations Office for the German Affairs Office.

At first Mr McGowan blandly asserted: "I can tell you without fear of contradiction that Dr Hilger was never employed by the United States State Department."

When pressed with certain facts, Mr McGowan hurriedly cried: "Oh, my goodness, yes. Yes, we did employ Dr Hilger on a consultant basis at the American Embassy in Bonn."

Mr McGowan also admitted that Hilger regularly commutes between Washington and West Germany. But he repeatedly denied that Hilger had anything to do with the "unsavoury aspects" of Germany during the war. When told that the proof was in the Nuremberg Trial records (Document NG—5026), this State Department press agent replied: "I recall that Dr Hilger was really an anti-nazi and was in fact rescued from a concentration camp. Dr Hilger was always considered a staunch foe of Hitler," said Mr McGowan.

Footnote by GERMAN REPORT: *Research in Berlin shows that there are still some angles of the strange case of Dr Hilger which bear investigation. The official lists of officials of the West German Foreign Ministry show that Dr Hilger was employed as a full-time diplomat in the "Eastern Block" Department of the Bonn Foreign Ministry from 1953 until his retirement in 1956. Since he was apparently in the employ of the US State Department at the same time, he would appear to be one of the very few diplomats in history who was working officially for two different governments at the same time.*

Book Review

MENACING "MIRACLE"

"The Menace of the Miracle" by Heinz Abosch, Collet's, London, 25 shillings.

This new book provides quite a useful summary of events in West Germany, seen from the point of view of a progressive West German journalist. In his summing-up at the end of the book, author Heinz Abosch states: "To describe what is happening in (West) Germany as a miracle may sound impressive, but it explains nothing ... The 'miracle' has not produced a mutation, in the sense of creating a genuinely new Germany: it has simply led to a revival of the old in a new situation and under a different aspect. If we disregard the superficial appearances and examine the underlying structure, we find that though a lot of labels have been changed, there has been little attempt to create anything new. The moral revolution, so essentially necessary after the terrible eruption of barbarism, requires a fundamental change in the economic structure... The forces that were in control of Germany yesterday, and the day before yesterday, are still in power."

Little of the material presented in this book on West German developments will be new to regular readers of GERMAN REPORT, but it can be recommended, with some reservations, to people who have not followed German affairs closely over the past few years.

The first reservation is that while Heinz Abosch is well informed on West German affairs, his chapter on the German Democratic Republic, though generally friendly, is often out of date and sometimes inaccurate. The second reservation is that Mr Abosch was poorly served by his translator. It is a little difficult to take seriously a book in which excerpts from basic documents, such as the Potsdam Agreement, readily available in an authentic English text, are arbitrarily translated, apparently from the French.

Despite these reservations, it is a good book to lend to friends who don't believe you when you tell them of the nazi comeback in West Germany today, and all that this may mean for the world.

J. P.

Hitler's U-Boat Men Back

On June 14th 1942 a convoy of 23 merchant vessels, heavily laden with food and raw materials desperately needed by Britain in the months preceeding El Alamein and Stalingrad, steamed slowly northwards from Gibraltar. The convoy was guarded by Commander Walker's 36th Escort Group — a destroyer and a few smaller sloops and corvettes.

Suddenly 8 nazi U-boats attacked. Seven were repulsed, but the eighth, the U-552, broke through and torpedoed five merchant vessels, sending the cargoes and many of the crew to the bottom of the Bay of Biscay.

Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, then head of U-boat warfare and later Hitler's brief successor as Germany's Fuehrer, was full of praise for the U-552 and its commander, Lieutenant Captain Erich Topp.

Topp was one of Nazi Germany's top U-boat men. Among his "kills" were 20 merchant ships sunk near Newfoundland from January 13th to 26th 1942; 7 merchant ships along the East Coast of the USA in March and April 1942; 2 merchant ships in July 1942, moving towards America in the North Atlantic, and many more.

Later in the war, he became commander of the 27th U-boat Flotilla in Gdynia, a training and testing unit of great strategic importance. Hitler showed his appreciation of Topp and his torpedo successes with the Knight's Cross in June 1941, the Oak Leaves to the Knight's Cross on April 11th 1942 and the Swords to the Knight's Cross — almost the top nazi decoration — on August 11th 1942.

Topp did not remain submerged for long after the war. As soon as West Germany began to build up its navy, Topp was back in service, for many years in the office of the West German naval attaché in Washington. On January 1st 1962, Captain Topp was named Commander of Amphibian Forces in the West German Navy, a unit of rapidly-growing importance. Captain Topp is still moving upwards.

The man whom Captain Topp replaced as commander of the Amphibious Forces was Captain Otto Kretschmer, another of the most famous U-boat commanders of World War Two. According to Grand Admiral Doenitz, he "possessed rare cold-bloodedness".

On November 3rd and 4th 1940, Kretschmer sank the British ships "Laurentic" and "Patroclus" west of Ireland. Here is his own description of part of the battle:

November 3rd, 2340 hours: I moved away as quickly as I could to the vicinity of the second steamer (the 'Patroclus'), which has come to a halt and is taking on the occupants of a life-boat.

November 4th, 0002 hours: Torpedo fired at the halted steamer. Distance 1200 metres. Hit in front of the bridge... Ship puts out lifeboats ... 0022 hours: Second torpedo fired at 'Patroclus', distance 1200 metres...

Records show that Kretschmer sank at least 44 merchant vessels and a number of destroyers.

Kretschmer torpedoed 4 merchant ships in the Channel between July 25th and August 5th 1940, 8 merchant ships south of Iceland in February and March 1941, and had piled up a victim list of more than 45 ships sunk and seven damaged before he was finally caught by the British Navy in the spring of 1941. Hitler awarded him the Knight's Cross with Oak Leaves and the Knight's Cross with Swords, the former "in recognition of his most eminent merits in the freedom struggle of the German people," as the nazi citation stated.

After the war, Kretschmer became President of the Marinebund, a jingoistic navy veterans' organisation, until he joined the newly-organising West German Navy in 1956. Later that year, Defence Minister Franz-Josef Strauss created an international furore by naming Kretschmer as Naval Attaché to London, presumably because he was so good at sinking British ships. When Britain protested, stating that the appointment would damage relations, Strauss withdrew. He considered sending Kretschmer to Ottawa instead, but then thought better of it and made him commander of a naval squadron.

In November 1958 Kretschmer became head of the Amphibious Forces and in January 1962 moved up to a post in the Marine Leadership Staff in Bonn.

Another old U-boat commander has reached an even higher position. Hans-Rudolf Roesing, after sinking seven merchant vessels in the Channel and the Bay of Biscay during the Battle of Britain in June 1940 as captain of the U-48, became commander of a flotilla, and then was appointed liaison man with the Italian U-boat squadron stationed in Bordeaux. From 1943 until war's end, Roesing was "Fuehrer of U-Boats in the West" — responsible for all Atlantic and Channel underwater operations.

After the war, Roesing was one of the first to rejoin the new navy; he

New U-Boats

West Germany's huge Howaldt Shipyards in Kiel is now building the "U-5", fifth of the current series of 12 submarines under construction for the West German Navy.

When the first in the current series of submarines was launched on October 21st 1961, Hitler's U-boat ace Otto Kretschmer, now a top West German naval officer, stated: "May the old spirit of the U-boat warriors drive you". West Germany's new submarines, although small, are considered the most powerful non-atomic submarines in the world.

Saving Crews Forbidden

"To all Commanders:

"All attempts to save crew members of sinking ships, whether by removing swimmers from the water and transferring them to life-boats, by righting overturned lifeboats or by supplying them with water or provisions, must cease. Such life saving contradicts warfare's most elementary requirement for the destruction of enemy ships and crews..."

Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz, in a command to all U-boats on September 17th 1942 (Nuremberg Trial record, 1948, Volume 13, p. 309)

Grand Admirals Were Grand

"There is no stain on the honour of our former naval Commanders-in-Chief (Grand Admiral Raeder and Doenitz)... The Grand Admirals (imprisoned at that time as war criminals in Spandau prison) are therefore bearing up under their fate by proxy for all of us."

Vice-Admiral Zenker, present head of the West German Navy (in a speech at Wilhelmshaven in January 1956 — quoted in "Der Spiegel", February 1st 1961)

was made responsible for planning the construction of new vessels. In March 1962 Roesing, now an Admiral, was made commander of West Germany's Defence Area I, which includes the northernmost provinces of Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg.

Another prominent old U-boat captain is Otto Schuhart. Here is his description of how he sank the British aircraft-carrier "Courageous" in the first weeks of the war:

At 19:50, near sunset, I was able to fire four torpedoes. What followed is hard to describe: We listened with rapidly-beating hearts, waiting for the hit, and then we heard it, two heavy blows, steel on steel, and then a giant detonation, a rushing sound, a swirling, then another detonation and then we knew: a bull's eye, well-hit...

Then I heard the radio news: 'The British Admiralty announces that the 'Courageous', 22,500-ton aircraft carrier, has been sunk by two torpedoes'. My men went wild, jumped up and down and shouted hurrah!

This sinking was the first major U-boat success of the war. Another U-boat captain described the return to port:

... The Fuehrer glowed with joy when he saw the crew after their arrival. The sight of the bearded, heavily-clothed men was such a pleasure that he walked down the lines twice. Then he walked to Lieutenant Captain Schuhart with outstretched hand: 'I thank you!'

Today, Schuhart is Frigate Captain in the West German Navy and an outspoken defender of the nazi Grand Admirals Doenitz and Raeder.

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Here are other U-boat men now back on top:

Hans Looschen, after experience as an officer on U-boats, a torpedo-boat and a destroyer, was promoted to the staff of U-boat Commander Karl Doenitz. Now a Flotilla Admiral, Looschen is in charge of the naval engineering command.

Captain Kurt Freiwald commanded the U-181, which helped sink 57 merchant vessels (365,000 tons) in and near the Indian Ocean, and also served on the Naval High Command as an adjutant to Grand Admiral Raeder. He now commands the North Sea Fleet's Coastal District.

Robert Gysae sank 25 merchant vessels between 1941 and 1943, most of them near South Africa or Madagascar, and was awarded the Knight's Cross and the Oak Leaves to the Knight's Cross by Hitler. Today he is again a captain in the West German Navy.

Captain Adolf Piening, now head of the 1st Convoy Squadron, formerly commanded the U-155, which sank the British carrier "Avenger" and 25 merchant vessels, 8 of them off the Newfoundland coast, 16 of them in the Caribbean and off Trinidad. He was awarded the Knight's Cross by Hitler in August 1941.

Captain Franz-Georg Reschke, who also holds a command post in the West German Navy, commanded the submarine U-205 in 1942 when it sank the British cruiser "Hermione" and attacked the supply route to the defenders of El Alamein. He was later given a job in the Naval High Command and awarded the German Cross in Gold.

Captain Heinrich Schuch, currently holding a job in the Naval Leadership Staff in Bonn, torpedoed several dozen merchant vessels in the Atlantic before becoming head of a department in the office of the "Fuehrer of U-Boats".

READERS' LETTERS

I am writing as a young student, objectively interested in what is vaguely termed "politics". I have been receiving GERMAN REPORT for about two years now and admire your enthusiasm for your cause.

May I ask, what is your cause? It could be, judging from the general unvaried tone of your paper, to justify yourself by implying that you have meted out justice scrupulously; it could be a genuine fear of what Nazism can cause; and finally it could be to inspire distrust or even hatred. To the second possibility I must admit that, as a member of the younger generation, Nazism is an event in history, and as history its dangers are no longer imminent. Perhaps in holding this view, we commit the same error as our fathers did in the 1930s, but with the shifting of power from a disunited Europe to a united America and Russia, West Germany is powerless. The method you use in reeling off lists of names, positions and crimes fails to strike because such brief information could be unjust or even unauthentic, and if it were true to the facts, it would be distrusted, especially in England, merely because no newspaper is relied upon, and justifiably too. While you appeal to us to be outraged that justice has not been honoured, must not justice give way to practical necessity! By this I mean that one cannot rid a country of all its experienced administrators, for who would replace them!

Maybe these are but naive surmises. The pro-German undercurrent of feeling could put you in great danger if it led to West Germany being allowed the "Nuclear Deterrent".

Miss J. C., Bristol, England

For some years I have received your well-written and highly interesting newsletter. One of the funniest things to observe is the long way your information takes to find its way down to the Norwegian newspapers — mostly through English newspapers, although I suppose Norwegian newspapers do receive GERMAN REPORT directly.

I should like to ask you to do me a favor. I'm a student at the University of Oslo. I should like it very much if you would start to mail copies of GERMAN REPORT to the students' canteen.

H. I., Oslo, Noway

For a long time I have been following with keen interest the situation in Germany by reading and studying your report. Not only myself, but also my colleagues and students, who all value the German people highly. Undoubtedly thanks to your report our knowledge about Germany in general and the world situation is enriched.

May I also make the following proposals:

1) If possible, let us know more about the struggle of the people in West Germany against the Bonn government.

2) To make your paper more lively, you might print more cartoons.

3) Sometimes, if need be, please have a readers' post bag in which we can know the opinions of readers the world over.

Nguyên — Thanh — Truć
Teacher at the Foreign Trade School, Hanoi,
Democratic Republic of Vietnam

I am still living at 92 years old, and still going strong. Just got through reading the report of November 23rd. You are surely a very good writer, in the way that you express yourself in the GERMAN REPORT. We pass them from one to another, they all seem to like them. In Alaska we are having very fine weather. The people in this country are all for peace but the upper crust don't seem to be reasonable enough to understand that war is hell, and that we are between the devil and the deep sea.

E. P., Sitka, Alaska

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

This seems to be a good day to write a few lines about the spell of unusually cold winter which has been afflicting most of Europe, because the heating in my office has been reduced to save coal, and I would be writing this column in mittens if I had any mittens.

The chill has been on nearly everywhere, with the accompanying electric cuts and hardships, but I don't think that it is special pleading to explain some of the reasons why the GDR has been particularly hard hit.

Oddly enough, geology is the real culprit. The eastern part of Germany has no hard coal or anthracite to speak of, but has vast reserves of soft coal or lignite. As a result, the whole economy of the GDR runs on a soft coal basis; the country is by far and away the biggest producer of soft coal in the world.

Giant Machines

Now soft coal is not dug from the pit like hard coal, but extracted from surface workings by the open cast method. Under normal conditions this is a very economical and highly-mechanised method; anywhere you go in the south-eastern part of the Republic you are likely to see the gigantic machines, some of them 900 feet long, which strip the oversoil and dig the coal.

A normal winter does not hinder the work much, but this winter, with long patches of intense frost, has frozen the soil iron-hard to a depth of several feet, and explosives have to be used to move the top stratum. Even when the miners have dug the coal, the fight is not ended, because soft coal has a high water content, and freezes solid in the wagons taking it to the factory, the power plant, or the domestic consumer.

Coal Bombs

As a result, things have been pretty tough, both for the miners digging the coal, the railwaymen moving it, and the factories, who had to get it out of the wagons and off the reserve dumps with pneumatic drills, or even explosives in some cases.

To conserve fuel supplies, the GDR authorities had, very reluctantly, to take a number of special measures. Quite a number of factories had to close down altogether, and universities, schools, theatres and cinemas in a number of towns were closed.

Where possible, schools have "doubled-up", and gone over to shift working. I must say my daughter Miriam welcomes the change. Instead of having to crawl from bed at the crack of dawn to reach school at what I find the rather unearthly hour of 8 a.m., she is sloshing off through the snow at noon to learn to read and write on the afternoon shift.

Weird Wolves

This long spell of severe winter reminds me that those legendary beasts known in journalistic circles as the "UP wolves" have not shown up for a year or two. In early post-war years, when I was working for Reuters news agency in West Berlin, there was at least one occasion every winter when I got a pained enquiry from Reuters in London as to why I had allowed myself to be scooped by the American news agency United Press (now United Press International), which had put out a story of packs of ravening wolves crossing the River Oder from Poland and sweeping across East Germany. Since there never were any wolves, it was a difficult story to be first with (or, of course, an easy story if you wanted to take the simple way out and invent the wolves before the opposition had remembered them).

For several years now, the UP wolves appear to have been quiescent; it almost seems a pity, since it was a relatively harmless phoney story.

Urgent footnote: An apparently authentic report has just come in that an elk has crossed the ice-covered Oder from Poland into the GDR: I would like to believe that it was being hotly pursued by UP wolves.

Applause

We often have so many nasty things to say about West Germany, that it is a pleasant change to report that a court of law in Bavaria has just shown that it has a sense of humour.

We reported on the earlier stages of the case on October 12th last year. In Munich, three young men had been fined 50 marks each for digging a hole in a public park. When the police stopped them, they stated politely that they were just complying with the instructions given in an air raid precaution booklet issued by the West German Ministry of the Interior. The booklet had suggested that citizens should dig such holes in good time as protection against atomic bombs.

The young men appealed against the sentence, and lo and behold, the Bavarian Supreme Court, keeping a straight face, ruled that they were simply exercising their constitutional right to express an opinion, and reversed the verdict.

Disarming

One of the most disarming remarks I have ever been on the receiving end of recently came my way. I happened to meet a certain western journalist who has sometimes been held up to ridicule in these columns for his extraordinarily poorly-informed reports on affairs in the German Democratic Republic. After making a half-hearted attempt to justify some of his stories, he said: "Of course, I don't really know anything about the GDR, so you shouldn't be so hard on me."

While I am on the subject of disarming remarks, I should pass on another declaration in this category. As you may know, West Germany has been without a Federal State Prosecutor for some months; the last man to hold the post disappeared in a cloud of dust last summer when documents from the nazi archives were brought to light here showing that he had played a particularly nasty role in the nazi Supreme Court.

A week or two ago, the new West German Minister of Justice, Dr Ewald Bucher, gave a TV interview in which he was asked why no new Federal Prosecutor had been appointed. After a bit of humming and hawing, he said: "The man we are looking for must have many years of experience in law practice, and this means that the suitable candidates worked in a past era, and they are reluctant to take a post where they would be exposed to attacks from the East because of their record."

Put in plain language, this means that apparently every single senior West German jurist who has the qualifications to be Federal Prosecutor has a skeleton in his cupboard from the nazi era. Much as some of them would like the leading post, they don't want to take it at the risk that the cupboard might suddenly fly open. As a footnote to this, I learn that at least one candidate for the post has been trying to make furtive enquiries as to whether the GDR authorities have any nazi documents on his past history.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet. Democratic German Report, Krausenstrasse 9, Berlin W 8, Telephone 22 29 68. Printed in Germany by (204). Veröffentlicht unter Lizenz-Nr. 694 beim Presseamt des Ministerpräsidenten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.